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AN INTERVIEW WITH KIM IL SUNG



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***TODAY VIETNAM,
TOMORROW KOREA?***

**An Interview With
Kim Il Sung**

**WORLD VIEW PUBLISHERS
46 West 21 Street
New York, N.Y. 10010**

PUBLISHED APRIL, 1970

LABOR DONATED



PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

We offer this pamphlet to the revolutionary and progressive public as an important contribution to the understanding of the situation in Eastern Asia, particularly as to the relations between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Representatives of the Democratic Youth League of Finland interviewed the President of the DPRK in the latter part of 1969. At the request of a prominent citizen of the DPRK, Workers World newspaper printed the interview in its edition of October 23 of that year.

The President, Marshal Kim Il Sung, explains in the interview just how the United States is going from plot to performance in staging an all-out attack upon the Korean people.

The people of the DPRK are extremely anxious to explain their position to the people of the United States, particularly the oppressed and the exploited here, who will inevitably be called upon to fight and die for imperialism in Korea. It is for that reason very important that this interview should be disseminated as widely as possible.

It is clear from recent history that imperialism is daily plotting new attacks and most likely a major attack against the DPRK in the near future. The U.S. frustration in Vietnam does not at all mean that it will give up its plans for world conquest and willingly get out of Asia.

American progressives and revolutionaries have not forgotten that the Korean War — that is, the U.S.-'UN' war against the DPRK — was never ended. There was only

a cease-fire in 1953 and weekly meetings between military leaders of both camps have been held on the border ever since.

The United States has kept 55,000 to 60,000 troops there at all times, hugging the truce line, ready to trigger a new war.

U.S. imperialism is always ready to sacrifice this whole army in the interest of trying to crush the DPRK, whenever it can best accuse the Koreans of "beginning" the conflict. Arming the puppet South Korean army with U.S. weapons and even battle-training 50,000 of these troops in Vietnam is not enough for the U.S. There is ample proof that U.S. nuclear weapons are also being mounted in South Korea.

The U.S. presence in South Korea is in itself a violation of the sovereignty and independence of the DPRK. And moving from the armed threat to armed action is only a short step, even though a sudden and violent one.

Both the Pueblo incident in 1968 and the spy plane shooting in 1969 were clear signals to all the world outside the United States to show what was really going on. Inside the United States the imperialist war-hawks tried to use the incidents to whip up the planned war immediately.

But the imperialist "doves" were not ready for this and first wished to extricate themselves from Vietnam and reorient the war-weary U.S. population so it would be willing to fight at a later date.

Now under the smokescreen of a peace talk provided by the doves, the hawks are desperately trying to get a bigger war going and to confront the U.S. people with an accomplished fact, if not in Vietnam, then in the Middle East—or in Korea.

The Kim Il Sung interview is at the very least a sober reminder that this process is indeed taking place. But it is also a valuable factual and logical preparation for the real vanguard in the fight against imperialist war. We are proud to present it now in pamphlet form.

Sub-headlines are ours.

— Workers World

**ANSWERS OF PRESIDENT
KIM IL SUNG TO QUESTIONS
RAISED BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE DEMOCRATIC YOUTH LEAGUE
OF FINLAND**

Question: U.S. imperialism has intensified its maneuverings against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Do you consider that the violations of the territory and the territorial waters and territorial air of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists, are a prelude to an eventually more extensive armed intervention against the territory of your country and that that will lead to a total war in the end?

Answer: At present the peace-loving peoples of the whole world, as you do, follow developments in our country with deep interest and are greatly concerned about the unusual situation in our country.

In fact, the situation of our country is very complicated and tense today. The U.S. imperialists play with fire almost every day against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, making the situation extremely acute.

As regards the uninterrupted intrusions by the

U.S. imperialists into the sacred territory, territorial waters and air of our country, these are no accidental occurrences but a link in the chain of their premeditated maneuvers to unleash a new war in Korea.

Ever since the first days of their worming into South Korea, the U.S. imperialists have consistently pursued and are still pursuing the heinous aim of not only turning South Korea into their complete colony but also committing aggression against the whole of Korea and Asia and, further, against the socialist camp with South Korea as a stepping stone.

It is for the attainment of this aim that they try to maintain their colonial domination over South Korea by all means and methods. The U.S. imperialists set up by the bayonet a most ferocious colonial fascist regime of dictatorship in South Korea, a puppet regime which faithfully executes their policies of military aggression and colonial enslavement, and through it and with the so-called "aid" as a bait, have taken hold of all the political, economic, cultural and military fields of South Korea and converted it into a U.S. military base for aggression, into a military appendage to the United States.

Armed Provocations

The U.S. imperialist maneuvers to provoke a new war in Korea have been more intensified especially in recent years. The U.S. imperialists have revealed their burglarious nature in a more undisguised manner and commit armed provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea every day, leading the situation to the brink of war. Last year alone, they made armed attacks on our side along the Military Demarcation Line on more than 2,000 occasions and infiltrated numerous espionage agents into the territory of the northern half of the Republic to perpetrate activities of subversion and sabotage.

In March of this year, the U.S. imperialists, for the purpose of testing their preparedness for another war in Korea, went so far as to stage a most provocative military exercise of "airlifting" massive aggression troops and combat material from the U.S. mainland to South Korea under the name of "Operation Focus Retina."

In order to unleash a new war, the U.S. imperialists have of late embarked upon more openly perpetrating various forms of espionage activity against our country. They cause hostile provocative incidents frequently by sending their armed spy ships to intrude deep into the territorial waters of our country in broad daylight on the one hand, and on the other, intensify aggressive aerial reconnaissance in our territorial air.

As is widely known to the world, the U.S. imperialist aggressors intruded their armed spy ship "Pueblo" deep into the territorial waters of our country to carry out espionage activities in January last year and were caught redhanded and received due punishment. But they still carry on espionage activities instead of drawing a lesson therefrom. As the U.S. imperialists themselves made public, the U.S. imperialist reconnaissance planes had flown around our territorial air and carried out espionage activities hundreds of times for the first few months of this year, and on April 15 last, a large-size "EC-121" spy plane was dispatched to penetrate deep into the territorial air of the Republic, but was shot down by the valiant Korean People's Army men while carrying out its espionage activities.

It was in the exercise of sovereignty as recognized by international law that we shot down the U.S. imperialist spy plane which had intruded into the territorial air of our country and committed hostile acts. It is the sacred and inviolable right of the people of every country to defend their sovereignty and take self-defense measures against those who try to infringe upon it.

However, as their spy plane was punished sev-

erely, the U.S. imperialists are ridiculously maneuvering to justify their criminal acts with a preposterous sophistry and going off into a more reckless war hysteria. The aggressors of U.S. imperialism clamor that they will continue reconnaissance flights over our country in the future, too, and that they will be provided with "armed escort," drawing a false picture as if their espionage activities against our country were some sort of measure "necessary" for the security of the United States and some sort of "right" devolved upon them.

As the world history of war shows, this kind of provocation is a deliberate act of aggression committed by the imperialists only on the eve of war for the purpose of detecting foreign military installations and other military secrets and making a pretext for igniting war.

In these days many war chieftains of U.S. imperialism creep into South Korea and bustle about the frontline areas and military bases, and the South Korean puppets are summoned to Washington almost every month for one conspiracy or another.

The U.S. imperialists and their lackeys have now established "war structure" throughout South Korea, issued emergency mobilization orders to the U.S. occupation troops in South Korea and the South Korean puppet army and have entered "special alert," reinforcing their armed forces along the Military Demarcation Line.

Judging from all the portents it is obvious that unless we maintain the sharpest revolutionary vigilance and make every preparation, the U.S. imperialists may launch a new war of aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at any moment.

The situation is very tense and dangerous conditions have been created in our country, where war may be unleashed by the U.S. imperialists even tomorrow or the day after. If the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys keep on provoking us,

we will not just sit with folded arms, and if this process of hitting and being hit is repeated, it will, in the long run, develop into a total war.

Question: Are there any instances of the increase of the U.S. military potentialities on South Korean soil? If they have increased, to what degree, do you think, is it linked with the premeditated aggravation of tension and the danger of a total war?

Answer: Since South Korea is a U.S. imperialist military base of aggression intended to invade the whole of Korea and Asia, there are already tremendous U.S. military potentialities there. The U.S. imperialists keep more than 60,000 U.S. troops and the armed forces of their satellite countries in South Korea and permanently maintain the huge puppet army 700,000 strong. And through their military occupation and "aid" they have seized real power in South Korea and thoroughly subordinated all its manpower and material resources to their military objectives and war policy.

The U.S. imperialists have incessantly increased their military potentialities in South Korea in systematic violation of the Armistice Agreement after the war and have embarked upon further reinforcing them, particularly in recent years. This is related entirely to the frantic preparations of another aggressive war by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

For a war of aggression the U.S. is reinforcing the U.S. occupation army in South Korea and increasing their combat capacities all the more. They have already introduced into South Korea large quantities of tactical nuclear weapons, guided missiles and other weapons of mass destruction and of late they newly formed what they call the 71st task fleet with large armed forces and deployed it off the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while reinforcing fighter-bombers in South Korean bases by several hundreds.

In increasing their military potentialities in South Korea the U.S. imperialists are especially interested in the reinforcement of the numerical strength of the South Korean puppet army and the modernization of their military equipment.

Expanding the Puppet Army

The South Korean puppet army is a colonial mercenary army which exclusively serves the aggressive policy of the U.S. imperialists. It is not without reason that the U.S. imperialists are expanding the puppet army so immensely instead of their aggression army. For the upkeep of a division of the South Korean puppet army the U.S. imperialists pay as little expense as a twenty-fifth of that for the maintenance of a division of their (own) aggression army.

So, the U.S. imperialists pressgang young and middle-aged South Koreans to use them for their aggression purposes, and thereby "cut" their military expenditures greatly. Furthermore, by employing a huge puppet army instead of their own troops, they make believe that the South Korean puppet army serves some national interests and beautify and embellish themselves as "helper."

For this purpose, the U.S. imperialists have increased the number of the ground forces of the South Korean puppet army from 16 divisions right after the armistice to 29 divisions plus 4 brigades and activated atomic and guided missile units, while reinforcing the South Korean puppet navy and air force on a large scale.

The maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to reinforce the numerical strength of the South Korean puppet army have become all the more frantic following the "Pueblo" incident and the incident of the shooting down of the "EC-121" spy plane. The numerical strength of the puppet army has swelled by almost 100,000 over the last 1-2 years in South Korea as a result of a number of measures such as suspending the demobilization of

the puppet army men, extending the term of military service, reorganizing reserve divisions in the rear into combat divisions and activating new units.

Other War Measures

What merits special attention are the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen to form the "Local Reserve Army."

For the purpose of further reinforcing local mercenaries in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists manufactured the "Local Reserve Army" and press-ganged into it over two million youth and middle-aged of South Korea and are hurrying up with its full armament. Now, they have placed the "Local Reserve Army" under the command of the puppet army and force military training upon it and have already prepared "call-up papers" so that it can be thrown into battles, at any time.

In accordance with the requirements of the U.S. imperialist policies of aggression and war, military airfields, harbours, rocket bases, strategic roads and various other military bases and military installations are being built or expanded in a big way all over South Korea now.

The U.S. imperialists have converted South Korea into a huge army camp, where massive armed forces are concentrated and everything is geared to war policy, into a drill ground for the provocation of a new war. This glaringly shows the aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists to conquer the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by "force."

Owing to these maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges to increase the military potentialities in South Korea, the tension is now being further aggravated and the danger of a new aggressive war is increasing every day in our country.

Question: Do you think the outbreak of a total war on the Korean territory can be checked?

Answer: The situation in our country has become very tense today due to the intensified U.S. imperialist manouvers for aggression and provocation of another war, but I think a total war can be checked if we actively struggle to safeguard peace.

The DPRK Wants Peace!

Proceeding from the intrinsic nature of our state and social system which is alien to exploitation and oppression of any kind, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea holds it as the basis of its foreign policy to oppose aggression against other countries and fight for peace and democracy, national independence and social progress.

Being a peace-loving people, we Korean people do not want to provoke any one first. We have never invaded a single inch of foreign territory in our history nor have we infringed in the least upon the sovereignty and security of other countries.

The imperialists, however, make aggression and war their regular business, their basic means of existence. Aggression and war are a constant companion of imperialism. U.S. imperialism, in particular, has carried out all sorts of brigandish plunder and atrocity everywhere in the world by means of most brutal and barbarous war since the first days of its birth and has got fattened with the sweat and blood of hundreds of millions of people.

The situation has become aggravated to the extreme in Korea today, creating a danger that war may break out again at any moment not because we have committed any act of violating the territory of the United States of America or menacing its sovereignty and security, but because the U.S. imperialists have come to our country thousands of miles away from their country and intensified the policies of aggression and war against the Korean people.

The Real Source of War

The source of war in Korea lies in the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and their policy of aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and, accordingly, the outbreak of a total war in Korea, too, depends entirely on the U.S. imperialists.

To check a war in Korea, this source of conflagration must be removed. If the U.S. imperialists get out of the southern half of our country taking their aggression army and lethal weapons with them and desist from hostile acts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a total war will be prevented and peace maintained in Korea. This is the fundamental requisite to preventing a new, total war in Korea.

Following the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression army from Korea, we may conclude a peace agreement whereby North and South Korea will pledge not to invade each other and take measures for cutting the armed forces of North and South Korea to 100,000 or less respectively. This will become a reliable guarantee for maintaining a durable peace in Korea.

To conclude a peace agreement between North and South Korea and cut the armed forces of North and South Korea sharply in this way after the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression army from Korea—this is the only way to prevent a total war in Korea and remove the danger of war.

The U.S. imperialists, however, oppose it tooth and nail and are going further on the way to hazardous war provocation.

Efforts to Stop Aggression

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people have made and are still making every sincere effort to frustrate the reckless maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and

their lackeys for provoking a new war, consolidate the Korean armistice and preserve peace in Korea. Peace is maintained in Korea today only thanks to the maximum patience and stubborn struggle of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people and to the struggle of the peace-loving peoples of the world.

The Korean people are well aware that peace can never be maintained by begging the U.S. imperialists for it, that it can be won only through a positive and persistent struggle to baffle the imperialists' maneuvers for war provocation. As in the past, the Korean people will, in the future too, unfold a resolute struggle to check the U.S. imperialist maneuverings of aggression and safeguard peace in Korea.

We're Ready for Peace or War

We fight with all consistency to prevent war and maintain peace, but we are not at all afraid of the imperialists pouncing upon us by force of arms. If the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys go the length of unleashing another total war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea despite our repeated warnings and the unanimous condemnation of the peace-loving peoples of the world, we will definitely return them a total war, and will thoroughly annihilate the aggressors.

We Korean people will never become colonial slaves of the Wall Street war mongers even if we die in the decisive battle against the enemy. We will resolutely defend our beloved fatherland and the socialist gains which we have won at the cost of blood from the encroachment of foreign aggressors.

Question: With what kinds of measures is U.S. imperialism attempting to suppress the national-liberation movement in South Korea? And what, in your opinion, are the possibilities of the development of the movement?

Answer: The revolution in South Korea is a national-liberation revolution against U.S. imperialism and a democratic revolution against feudal forces. The U.S. imperialists have occupied South Korea by force of arms and turned it completely into their colony and military base.

In maintaining their colonial rule over South Korea, the U.S. imperialists rely on the landlords, comprador capitalists and reactionary bureaucrats who have become guides for the U.S. imperialist aggression and their faithful agents. The landlord class cruelly exploits and oppresses the peasant masses under the patronage of the U.S. imperialists. The comprador capitalists make profits by introducing U.S. surplus goods and capital, plundering and selling out the resources of our country to the U.S. monopolies and supplying war materials to the mercenary troops of U.S. imperialism.

Basic Task in South Korea

Accordingly, the basic task of the South Korean revolution is to oppose the occupation of South Korea by U.S. imperialists and drive out the U.S. aggression army, oppose the exploitation and oppression by the landlords, comprador capitalists and reactionary bureaucrats who are hand in glove with U.S. imperialism and to ensure democratic development for South Korean society.

Ever since the liberation up to this date, the South Korean workers, peasants, patriotic youths and students, intellectuals, petty-bourgeoisie and even the conscientious national capitalists have waged vigorous struggles to carry out that task, thereby shaking the colonial rule of U.S. imperialism to its very foundations and driving the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys into a dead end.

The U.S. imperialists are so much flurried at this that they resort to plain military fascist dictatorship in an attempt to maintain their colonial rule which is on the brink of total bankruptcy in South Korea



South Korean puppet soldiers breaking up popular protest against



a new 'election' for U.S. backed Chung Hee Park on July 3, 1969.

and eliminate all the social and political elements which constitute an obstacle to their colonial rule and the carrying out of their war policies.

U.S. imperialism and its lackeys have expanded the repressive apparatus on a large scale while manufacturing various evil fascist laws and thus covered the whole of South Korea with a military, police, intelligence and secret service network and turned the whole land of South Korea into a living hell of terrorism and oppression. They are running amuck to stamp out all freedom and democratic rights of the people and brutally suppressing the patriotic, democratic forces.

Hitlerism, Seoul Style

All the progressive political parties, public organizations and press organs have become the target of harsh suppression and the revolutionaries and patriotic people, who have risen in the righteous struggle for the right to existence, democratic freedom, national liberation and the unification of the country, are being arrested, detained and butchered right and left.

Only recently, the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys arrested, imprisoned and murdered at random a large number of revolutionaries and patriotic personages including Kim Jong Tae, a leading functionary of the United Revolutionary Party in South Korea, because they had demanded democracy and liberty. With the rampancy of the "intelligence politics that violate human rights and the power politics that ignore public opinion," South Korean society has virtually been reduced to a "space without air, a land without moisture and society without light," to a "debris where democracy has been eroded."

In this way, the regime of military fascist dictatorship established in South Korea faithfully serves the U.S. imperialist policies of colonial

enslavement and war. The military fascist dictatorship enforced by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea surpasses by far the fascist dictatorships of Hitler and Tojo in ferocity and barbarity and has become a pattern of the malicious fascist rule of the imperialists over colonies.

Under the heavy burden of military expenses resulting from the policies of aggression and war pursued by the U.S. imperialists and their puppet regime and under fascist suppression, poverty and non-rights of the South Korean people have reached the extreme and the dignity of the nation is utterly trampled upon and social unrest mounts day by day.

The People's Struggle

The revolutionaries and patriotic people of South Korea. are waging the anti-U.S. national-salvation struggle under very difficult conditions of rampant fascist suppression, and the national-liberation struggle in South Korea has an arduous way to go, of course. But no difficulty, no amount of frenzy of the enemy can ever hold in check the advance of the revolutionary movement in South Korea.

Where there are exploitation and oppression, there always breaks out the revolutionary struggle of the people and where oppressors intensify their tyranny, the people's struggle against it always becomes more organized and tenacious.

The more the U.S. imperialists intensify their fascist suppression in South Korea, the greater discontent and stronger resistance of the South Korean people they will encounter.

In South Korea today, confrontation between democracy and reaction has become more acute and the imperialist forces of aggression are ever more isolated and weakened, whereas the patriotic forces of revolution keep on growing.

National and class consciousness is gradually increasing and the anti-U.S. sentiments mounting among the masses of the people in South Korea. The

revolutionary struggle of the South Korean people is ever more expanding and developing into diverse forms of positive anti-U.S., national-salvation struggle, armed struggle included.

The struggle has become increasingly organized and rooted deep among the workers and peasants, the main forces of the revolution, and is vigorously unfolded among the broader masses of the people of all walks of life.

Gaining Momentum

The mass struggle of the South Korean people which is rapidly gaining momentum in these days against the maneuvers of the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique for a long-term office in South Korea clearly testifies that the national-liberation movement of South Korea is growing continuously even under the circumstances of the maximum fascist suppression by U.S. imperialism and its stooges. Through the active and arduous revolutionary struggle, the South Korean people will be all the more awakened and tempered and will grow into an invincible revolutionary force which will eventually be able to repulse any malignant enemy. And once a revolutionary situation arrives, they will definitely crush U.S. imperialism and its lackeys and achieve the final victory for the revolution.

Question: How best can the national unification of Korea be realized?

Answer: The stand we have taken with regard to the question of Korean unification has already been made clear on a number of occasions.

We have maintained and still maintain that the question of Korean unification should be solved by the Korean people themselves independently and by peaceful means on democratic principles without interference of any outside forces.

The question of Korean unification is an internal affair of the Korean people, in which no outside forces are allowed to meddle. We can never place the question of the unification of our country at the disposal of foreigners. Foreigners cannot solve the domestic affairs of our nation, either. The Korean question should be settled only by the Korean people themselves according to their will and their own efforts. Ours is a sagacious and civilized nation that is fully capable of solving any of its national questions by itself.

Unification

The unification of the North and South of our country, the long-cherished desire of the whole nation, has not yet been accomplished solely because the U.S. imperialists occupy South Korea, interfere in the internal affairs of our country and pursue the policy of national split.

If the U.S. imperialists had not unlawfully occupied South Korea and had not obstructed our people's cause of national unification, we would have long unified the country and the 40 million Korean people would have been leading a happy life together in a unified land stretching across three thousand ri. The occupation of South Korea by U.S. imperialism and its aggressive policy constitute the source of all the miseries of our nation and the main obstacle to the unification of Korea. For the attainment of Korean unification, therefore, the U.S. imperialist aggressors should get out of South Korea, first of all.

We may materialize the unification of the country by way of establishing a unified central government through general elections in the North and South to be held on democratic principles under the conditions in which all foreign troops have withdrawn and there is no interference of outside forces.

In order to hold such general elections, first of all, complete freedom of political activities of all political parties, public organizations and individuals

as well as freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association and demonstration should be fully ensured in all parts of North and South Korea. Along with this, all the citizens should be enabled to enjoy equal suffrage and eligibility for election irrespective of their political party affiliations, political views, property status, standard of learning, religious faith and sex anywhere in North and South Korea.

A unified democratic government representing the interests of all strata of the people can thus be established only through the elections by secret ballot on universal, equal and direct principles in a completely democratic atmosphere after eliminating all the factors that obstruct or suppress the expression of free will of the people.

We consider that this is the most realistic way for the unification of Korea and is a fair and reasonable program acceptable to all.

We have so far made every possible effort to realize the unification of the country since liberation.

Transitional Step

We have proposed to set up a Confederation of North and South Korea as a transitional step to tackle urgent, immediate problems of common concern for the nation and gradually go over to complete unification, if the free general elections throughout North and South Korea cannot be held right now.

The Confederation we have proposed means the formation of a Supreme National Committee composed of equal numbers of representatives designated by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the South Korean authorities respectively, while preserving the present political systems established in North and South Korea as they are. This Supreme National Committee should be an organ, the main function of which is to coordinate the economic and cultural development of North and South Korea and promote mutual co-

operation and intercourse between the North and the South for the common interests of the nation.

We maintained that if the South Korean rulers could not accept the Confederation, economic and cultural interchange and mutual visit of individual persons between North and South Korea should be materialized so as to mitigate even a little the sufferings of national split, setting aside political questions for the time being. We proposed to take humanitarian measures for allowing the North and South Korean people to exchange letters at least, in case they would not like even that.

Imperialists Rejected It

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, however, have rejected all these just proposals of ours and answered our persevering, sincere efforts with aggressive provocations each time.

In consequence, since liberation up to now when a new generation has grown up, our people have lived an extremely abnormal life in which parents, wives and children, relatives and friends live asunder in the North and South and cannot even hear from each other, to say nothing of the unification of the country.

Do the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen oppose our just proposals on unification with any counterproposals which are acceptable to us on the question of Korean unification? No, far from that.

Now, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are frantically raising repressive rackets, recklessly arresting and imprisoning anybody in South Korea at the mere utterances on peaceful unification, and are maneuvering in every way to perpetuate the division of Korea. Under these circumstances, it is practically impossible to think of the peaceful unification of Korea so long as the U.S. imperialists and the present puppet rulers are allowed to remain in South Korea.

U.S. Must Get Out!

Korea's peaceful unification can be achieved only after the U.S. imperialist aggression army has been driven out of South Korea and the South Korean people have overthrown the present puppet regime and the progressive forces of South Korea have taken power. When the U.S. imperialist aggressors are forced out of South Korea and the present South Korean rulers are ousted and then some progressive democratic personages have seized power, we can hold peaceful negotiations with them on the question of Korean unification at any time. Our people's cause of national unification will thus be attained with the concerted efforts of the socialist forces of the northern half and the patriotic democratic forces of South Korea.

We can say that the unification of Korea and the attainment of the Korean people's cause of national liberation depend, in the final analysis, on the preparation of the three revolutionary forces. They are, firstly, the socialist forces of North Korea, secondly, the revolutionary forces of South Korea and thirdly, the international revolutionary forces. While striving to strengthen and develop the revolutionary forces in North and South Korea, we are fighting to develop the international revolutionary movement and cement solidarity with it.

The U.S. imperialists will finally be chased out of South Korea by the revolutionary struggle of the North and South Korean people who enjoy active support from the revolutionary peoples of the whole world and Korean unification will be accomplished without fail.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend my warm greetings to the Finnish Communists and the working class of Finland who actively support the righteous struggle of the Korean people to drive out the U.S. imperialist aggressors from South Korea and unify the country independently.

Question: What is your opinion about the will of

the youth of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to step up socialist construction and defend their country's right to self-determination?

Role of the Youth

Answer: The youth play a very great role in the revolution and construction of our country.

The youth can play an important role in the social revolution and the construction of a new society, for they are originally sensitive to the new and are endowed with an enterprising spirit and have the fine character and quality of loving justice and truth and fighting for them, surmounting difficulties without fear. Particularly, all the excellent character and qualities of the youth will display a very great force when they are combined with their firm revolutionary determination to devote themselves to the struggle for society and people under the leadership of a revolutionary party.

We consider that the Korean youth have proved this truth creditably in their practical activities.

Today, the Korean youth, under the leadership of our Party, are playing the role of a vanguard, a shock brigade on all fronts of economic construction and national defense upbuilding in order to accelerate the socialist construction of the country and safeguard the revolutionary gains, the independence of the country and the security of the people against the enemy's aggression.

After liberation, the Korean youth, firmly rallied behind the banner of the Democratic Youth League under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, took an active part in the carrying out of all the democratic reforms in North Korea, and especially in the arduous period of post-war rehabilitation when the socialist revolution and socialist construction became the order of the day, they brought their revolu-

tionary enthusiasm, inexhaustible strength and talents into full play.

They participated with a great revolutionary spirit in the work of co-operativizing agriculture and transforming private trade and industry on socialist lines, a great socio-economic change in our country, and erected factories, reconstructed railways and built in a new shape the towns and villages which had been reduced to ashes, tightening their belts and fighting hardfought battles.

The steadfast determination and high revolutionary zeal of the youth in our country to build a new happy society faster and better are displayed to the full in all fields of socialist construction today.

The youth always bear the brunt of the most difficult and arduous work in the factories and mines, in the farming and fishing villages, and on numerous construction sites across the country, and they are ceaselessly raising the flames of innovation in production.

Perform Great Feats

They are not only performing a great feat of labor in building an independent socialist industry and firm socialist agriculture but also contributing greatly to the work of developing science and technology and bringing national culture and art into full bloom in our country. All the achievements made by the Korean people in socialist construction are imbued with the precious sweat of our young men and women and associated with their great exploits.

The Korean youth are exhibiting unexcelled patriotic devotion and gallantry also in the struggle to defend the socialist gains and sovereignty of their fatherland against foreign aggressors.

The Korean youth have the brilliant revolutionary traditions of the struggle for the freedom and independence of the fatherland. When the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea, young Korean Communists

waged 15 years of arduous struggle with arms in their hands and restored their usurped country by crushing the Japanese imperialist aggressors, and when the U.S. imperialists unleashed a war against our young Republic, too, the Korean youth repulsed the enemy and defended the independence and honour of the country with credit, displaying their indomitable revolutionary fighting spirit and mass heroism.

They stand firmly at the outpost of national defense today. Our valiant People's Army soldiers administer decisive counterstrokes at the enemy whenever he violates the territory, territorial waters and air of our country even an inch. The U.S. imperialists have more than once had the bitter taste of the counterstrokes of our brave People's Army soldiers of late alone.

Hammer, Sickle and Rifle

In our country, national defense service is taken up not only by the youth in the People's Army. Our entire youth and working people are builders of socialism and real defenders of the fatherland at the same time. They are all building their socialist country with a hammer and sickle in one hand and a rifle in the other.

Today the whole Korean youth are filled with a strong determination to defend the country firmly against any aggression of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.

All this is an expression of the boundless loyalty of the Korean youth to the Workers' Party of Korea and an expression of their ardent love for the country and the socialist system.

The Korean youth are aware that they are reliable reserves of the Workers' Party of Korea and true masters of the country and that they represent the future of our society.

That is why they are most faithful in serving the revolutionary cause of the working class and actively support and profoundly love the socialist system and

socialist fatherland which have enabled them to work and study to their hearts' content and to display all their youthful wisdom and talents to the full, and that is why they regard it as their greatest honor that cannot be bartered away for anything and as their sacred duty to devote their all to the struggle for pushing ahead with socialist construction, consolidating and developing the socialist system and firmly safeguarding the revolutionary gains and their fatherland.

Simple and Militant Life

With the triumph of the socialist revolution and the dynamic acceleration of socialist construction in our country, a great change is taking place in the spiritual life of the youth. It has become the common traits of our youth to lead a simple and militant life and study and work steadily and sincerely for society and the collective. All their work and life are filled to overflowing with a lofty revolutionary consciousness as Red revolutionary soldiers of the Workers' Party of Korea and beautiful communist traits of life.

In the future too, the Korean youth will continue to march forward vigorously in the van of the struggle for the building of socialism and communism under the leadership of our Party.

The Korean youth will further strengthen the ties of friendship and solidarity with the progressive youth of the whole world including the Finnish youth, and will always fight staunchly together with them on the same side of the barricade in the struggle against the imperialists headed by the U.S. imperialists.

U.S. Maneuvers on Vietnam

Question: What effect do you think the U.S. presidential election, the Paris negotiations on Vietnam and the establishment of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam

will have on the final solution of the Vietnam question?

Answer: The Vietnam question is a matter of greatest concern for the peoples throughout the world today.

The Vietnam war was sparked when the U.S. imperialists, proceeding from their thieving ambition to turn South Vietnam into their colony and military base for Asian aggression and swallow up the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, started a shameless armed intervention in the just cause of the Vietnamese people for freedom and independence, democracy and unification.

In an endeavour to achieve their aggressive ends in Vietnam the U.S. imperialists have been engrossed in all sorts of malignant maneuvers already for 15 years in flagrant violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. The U.S. imperialists have dragged into South Vietnam a colossal aggression army more than 500,000 strong and huge numbers of troops of their satellite countries and puppets, and massacred South Vietnamese people at random by using various weapons of mass destruction and war equipment and even poisonous chemicals.

As they encountered a strong resistance of the heroic Vietnamese people who came out against the foreign aggressors, the U.S. imperialists embarked upon the escalation of their criminal war of aggression in South Vietnam and went to the extent of unleashing a destructive war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by framing up the "Bac Bo Gulf Incident" in 1964. (Known as Tonkin Gulf in the U.S.—ed.)

Viet Solution: Get U.S. Out!

For the cessation of hostilities in Vietnam and the final solution of the Vietnam question, therefore, the U.S. imperialists should stop all their aggressive acts against Vietnam at once and forever and quit South Vietnam, taking along with them their aggres-

sion army as well as the troops of their satellite countries and puppets unconditionally. We consider this the basic requisite for the solution of the Vietnam question.

But we cannot expect that there will be any change in the policy of U.S. imperialism or any turn in the solution of the Vietnam question simply because a new President has assumed office in the United States.

All the policies of the United States of America originate from the aggressive nature of U.S. imperialism, and they can never change so long as the United States remains an imperialist power and does not give up her ambition for world domination.

No matter who becomes U.S. President, he only executes the colonial policy and expansionist policy of U.S. imperialism faithfully as a spokesman for the interests of the U.S. monopolies. Unless the state and social system of the United States of America undergoes a fundamental change, the policies of U.S. imperialism can never change all of a sudden from aggressive ones to peaceable ones simply because the president has been replaced.

The same can be said with regard to the Vietnam question. The aggressive designs of U.S. imperialism on Vietnam cannot change because of the replacement of the U.S. President, and, accordingly, the presidential election in the United States cannot be an occasion for any turn in the solution of the Vietnam question.

But Vietnam Can Win!

But all this in no way means that the Vietnam question is a question which can never be solved and which has gloomy prospects so long as the United States remains an imperialist power. The Vietnam question will definitely be solved sooner or later when the subjective and objective situations of the revolution are created; and it may be settled even earlier during the term of office of the present U.S. president.

Even in that case, however, the Vietnam question could be solved not because the present U.S. Presi-

dent desisted from the aggressive policy and adopted a peaceloving policy but because the U.S. imperialists were finally beaten and driven out of Vietnam by the heroic anti-U.S., national-salvation resistance of the Vietnamese people who enjoy the positive support of the world's revolutionary peoples.

As for the Paris Conference on Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists were forced into the conference site at Paris as they suffered more irretrievable, heavy military and political defeat with each passing day by the heroic resistance of the Vietnamese people and were confronted with the resolute protest and condemnation of the whole world's peace-loving peoples opposed to the criminal war of aggression in Vietnam.

U.S. Strategy at Paris

But the U.S. imperialists are brazenly maneuvering to recover at the conference table from the crushing they have sustained on the battleground, and behind the screen of "peace" and "negotiation" they cling to crafty trickery and artifice to pursue the "policy of strength" and intensify the aggressive war in Vietnam and perpetuate their occupation of South Vietnam.

All this shows beyond doubt how heinously the U.S. imperialists are maneuvering to carry through to the end their brigandish designs to stifle the national-liberation revolution of the South Vietnamese people, maintain their neo-colonialist rule over South Vietnam and destroy the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Paris Conference on Vietnam, due to the insidious maneuverings of the U.S. imperialists, has made little progress contrary to the expectation of the progressive people of the whole world.

If the U.S. imperialists persist in their present position at the Paris Conference on Vietnam, nothing can be expected from there.

The only correct way to push forward the Paris Conference on Vietnam successfully and solve the Vietnam question in conformity with the world public opinion and the desire of the Vietnamese people is the full acceptance by the U.S. imperialists of the reasonable suggestions set forth by the representatives of the Vietnamese people.

No one can solve the Vietnam question for the Vietnamese people. The master of Vietnam is the Vietnamese people and the Vietnam question should be solved by the Vietnamese people themselves without interference of any outside forces. We consider that the Vietnam question can be settled most correctly only on the basis of the proposals made by the representative of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the ten-point proposal made public by the delegation of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation at the Paris Conference on Vietnam, and we give wholehearted support to the proposals.

As for the setting up of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, it is an epoch-making event which has recently focused the attention of the peoples of the whole world, I think.

The establishment of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, as a brilliant result scored in the resistance war of the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialism for national salvation, is of great historic significance in the struggle of the South Vietnamese people to accomplish the national-liberation revolution.

PGR the Lawful Government

Through the establishment of their revolutionary government the South Vietnamese people have come to possess a more powerful weapon in the struggle to develop the liberation struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors onto a new stage, build independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral South Vietnam and bring about the peaceful unification of the country.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam is the genuine, lawful government of the South Vietnamese people that embraces the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the Vietnam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces as well as various political parties, public organizations, religious organizations and all strata of the people in South Vietnam.

The U.S. imperialists should leave the South Vietnam question to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, the genuine, lawful representative of the South Vietnamese people, and withdraw from South Vietnam without delay. The U.S. imperialists should discuss the solution of the South Vietnam question with the representative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam also at the Paris Conference on Vietnam.

If the U.S. imperialists reject this and continue to back the Thieu-Ky puppet clique in South Vietnam as they do now and persist in the criminal aggressive maneuverings, the South Vietnamese people will fight more resolutely under the guidance of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam till they sweep away the U.S. imperialist aggressors to the last man.

We are deeply convinced that the heroic South Vietnamese people, rallied firmly around the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, will defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their running dogs and will surely win the complete victory of the national-liberation revolution and the sacred cause of national unification.

No force can subdue the people who have taken power in their hands and risen in an armed struggle for freedom and independence.

Victory will be attained definitely by the heroic Vietnamese people who have risen in the sacred battle against U.S. imperialism for national salvation to safeguard the north, liberate the south and unify the country.

THE WAR DRIVE OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

Despite the genocidal war crimes perpetrated against the Korean people, the U.S. was unable to overcome the heroic Korean and Chinese forces resisting their attempt to re-establish imperialist control over North Korea. However, the U.S. did manage to retain its stranglehold on South Korea. Now, Kim Il Sung and the Korean people expect the U.S. to launch another war against them.

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This interview with Kim Il Sung was originally published in the U.S. in Workers World newspaper, which presents thorough coverage of the revolutionary struggles in Korea and all around the world.

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